

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested.

Claims 20, 40, 70 and 72 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

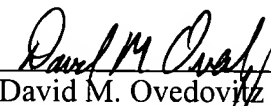
Claims 15, 16, 35, 36 and 52 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatenable over claim 65 of copending application number 10/958,301 in view of Jones (U.S. 6,952,645). Claims 35, 36 and 45 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatenable over claim 65 of copending application number 10/958,301 in view of Jones and Schmier (US 6,006,159). Claims 15, 16, 35, 36 and 52 have been rejected by the Examiner as being obvious from Okude (US 6,175,802) in view of Jones. Claims 35, 36 and 45 have been rejected by the Examiner as being obvious from Okude in view of Jones and further in view of Schmier.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this application, claims 15, 16, 35, 36, 45 and 52 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. As a result, only allowable claims remain pending.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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October 2, 2007